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WARHAMMER
MONTHLY
KAL JERICO
He's bad – and he's back!
plus!
BLOODQUEST • DARKBLADE • TITAN • DAEMONIFUGE

WARHAMMER MONTHLY

Baneblade? *Baneblade?* LUCANOS BANEBLADE, OR WHATEVER YOUR NAME IS. Ah, there you are!

What is it now, *Gutspew, you tiresome piece of...*

It's just that, I'm, well, to tell the truth I'm *bored*. I mean, what's the point? There's nothing to do here in the Warp, is there? I can't seem to kill you, damn your eyes, you can't seem to kill me, and by all the gods we've tried! But somehow you just keep popping back up like a bad dream no matter *how* many times I behead you... Sigh. I wonder if we'll be stuck here forever...?

By the Emperor! *The truth? THE TRUTH? What do you know about it? You wouldn't recognise the truth if it was wrapped round my chainsword and forced into your... Oh, I give up! What of honour? Of valour? Of the joy of battle! I don't care how long I stay here, nor how many times I tear you limb from limb and stamp on the wet bits – because every time I do so it reminds that I fight for the Emperor! Now in a minute we'll do it all over again. Let's see, how about hand-to-hand, no weapons, and I'll redefine the concept of pain for you. That should give you something to be interested in. Give me five minutes, though, I just want to see what Brother Leonatos is up to on his Bloodquest...*

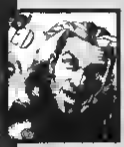
...THIS EVENING...

TITAN
After taking control of Imperius Dictatio, in this final episode Hekate finds himself court martialled for disobeying orders!

DAEMONIFUGE
Reinstated as a Sister of Battle, Ephrael Stern sets out for Parnis in search of answers

BLOODQUEST
Seeking the lost sword of Belarius, Leonatos and the Blood Angels arrive on the war-ravaged planet of Leptis

DARKBLADE
Malus Darkblade, possessed by a Daemon, must gather five ancient artefacts to set the creature free



KAL JERICO
The suave Necromundan bounty hunter has tracked down a missing girl – but getting her to come quietly is another matter!

GAMES WORKSHOP®

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THE PARLIAMENT OF MINDS
HERE MY FATE WILL BE DECIDED.
THE MAGOS AWAITS ME. THE GRAVE FACES OF THE ASSEMBLED RANKS TURN TOWARDS ME. AND I FEEL THE INVISIBLE PRESENCE OF OTHERS...
...MACHINE MINDS. WARLORD TITANS, SOME HERE AT THE DEPOT, SOME FAR AWAY IN DARK CORNERS OF THE FIREFIELDS, PAUSING IN THEIR HOLY WORK TO CONSIDER ME.
I AM TERRIFIED.
THE HALL OF MACHINES. TITAN LEGION FRONTLINE DEPOT, BALOR SECUNDUS
HERE THEY WILL SIT IN JUDGEMENT ON ME.
HERE, THE BRETHREN OF THE ADEPTUS MECHANICUS WILL DEBATE ME EITHER IN PERSON OR VIA AN INTERWEAVING OF MIND IMPULSE UNITS.
HERE THE MINDS WILL MEET.
LET THE HONOUR GUARD APPROACH!
THE PRISONER WILL TAKE THE STAND. NAME YOURSELF!
ERVIN HEKATE PRINCEPS.
TITAN
SCRIPT DAN ABNETT
ART ANTHONY WILLIAMS & ANDY LANNING

WHO NAMES THE CHARGES?
VHOTIN, DEPOT COMMANDER
THE PRISONER WAS ORDERED NOT TO LINK WITH THE TITAN IMPERIUS DICTATIO, YET HE DISOBEYED
THE CHARGE IS WILFUL DISOBEDIENCE TO THE CHAIN OF COMMAND.
I CANNOT DISPUTE THAT I DISOBEYED THE COMMANDER'S ORDER BUT
THE PENALTY IS TERMINATION. AS THE ANCIENT TEXTS DECREE
HOW DO YOU PLEAD, PRISONER?
HOW DO YOU PLEAD?
I... I DO NOT. I ASK FOR EVALUATION.
SO BE IT!
WHO SPEAKS FOR HEKATE?
WHO SPEAKS AGAINST?
24

GORTMUN, PRINCEPS, IMPERIUS FURIOSO.
DISOBEDIENCE IS DISOBEDIENCE HE MUST PAY.
THAT IS AN END TO IT
KRAVER, PRINCEPS INDOMITUS MECHANICUS
THINK CLEARLY BROTHER TITAN. DID THIS MAN NOT HAVE THE ROLE OF PRINCEPS THRUST UPON HIM? IS HE NOT LITTLE MORE THAN A TRAINEE, FRESH FROM THE COLLEGIATE TITANICUS?
HE MAY LEARN WISDOM FROM THIS. PRINCEPS ARE VALUABLE COMMODITIES. DO NOT WASTE HIM.
FOR THE COURT. EXPLAIN HOW YOU CAME TO BE LINKED WITH THE WAR MACHINE IMPERIUS DICTATIO
I WAS SERVING ABOARD AS PRINCEPS CADET PRINCEPS MACABEE DIED WITHOUT WARNING I WAS THE ONLY ONE ABOARD WHO COULD TAKE HIS PLACE IN THE MIND IMPULSE LINK.
CAN THIS BE VERIFIED? WHO SPEAKS FOR HEKATE?
A MATTER OF EXPEDIENCY SUCH THINGS ARE DONE IN WAR BUT IT DOES NOT MEAN THE STRIPLING HAS ANY CLAIM TO DICTATIO HE MUST STAND ASIDE FOR A MORE EXPERIENCED CANDIDATE
MODERATI VOSS IMPERIUS DICTATIO
THE DECISION TO LINK CADET HEKATE WAS TAKEN JOINTLY BY THE CREW CHIEFS IT WAS THE ONLY WAY
WE WERE FACING IMMINENT COMBAT WITH A GARGANT WHEN PRINCEPS MACABEE DIED.
BY COMMANDEERING THE TITAN. HE DISPLAYED HIS OWN ARROGANCE AND NIAVE FOLLY HIS UNSUITABILITY. BURN HIM

HORTAN, PRINCEPS, IMPERIUS INFERNUS
DID HE NOT TAKE COMMAND TO SAVE THIS DEPOT?
THE ORKS HAD US SURPRISED NO ONE WAS READY TO RESIST DID HEKATE NOT ACT WITH THE HONOUR OF THE EMPEROR PARAMOUNT IN HIS MIND?
DID HE NOT FIGHT GLORIOUSLY?
AUTHORITY MUST BE RESPECTED. ORDERS ARE SACROSANCT! HEKATE DISOBEYED! BETTER THAT-
B-BETTER THAT THIS DEPOT AND EVERY IMPERIAL LIFE IN IT HAD FALLEN THAN I HAD DISOBEYED YOUR ORDER?
SEVERAL HAVE SPOKEN TO INDEMNIFY HEKATE'S ACTIONS, TO EXCUSE THEM...
BUT NONE HAVE BEEN ABLE TO DENY THE CHARGE ITSELF THAT FACT REMAINS HEKATE DISOBEYED A DIRECT ORDER HE IS GUILTY
AS THE EMPEROR IS MY JUDGE...
...YES
WHO ELSE SPEAKS FOR HEKATE?
OR SHALL SENTENCE BE CARRIED OUT?
I WOULD.

MACABEE.
FROM THE DEPTHS OF DICTATIO'S MIND CORE WHERE MY SENTIENCE LINGERS AS A PHANTOM.
I WOULD SPEAK.
THEN SPEAK, OLD WARRIOR.
CAN IT BE?
THE OLD MAN!
THE TITAN ITSELF INTERCEDES.

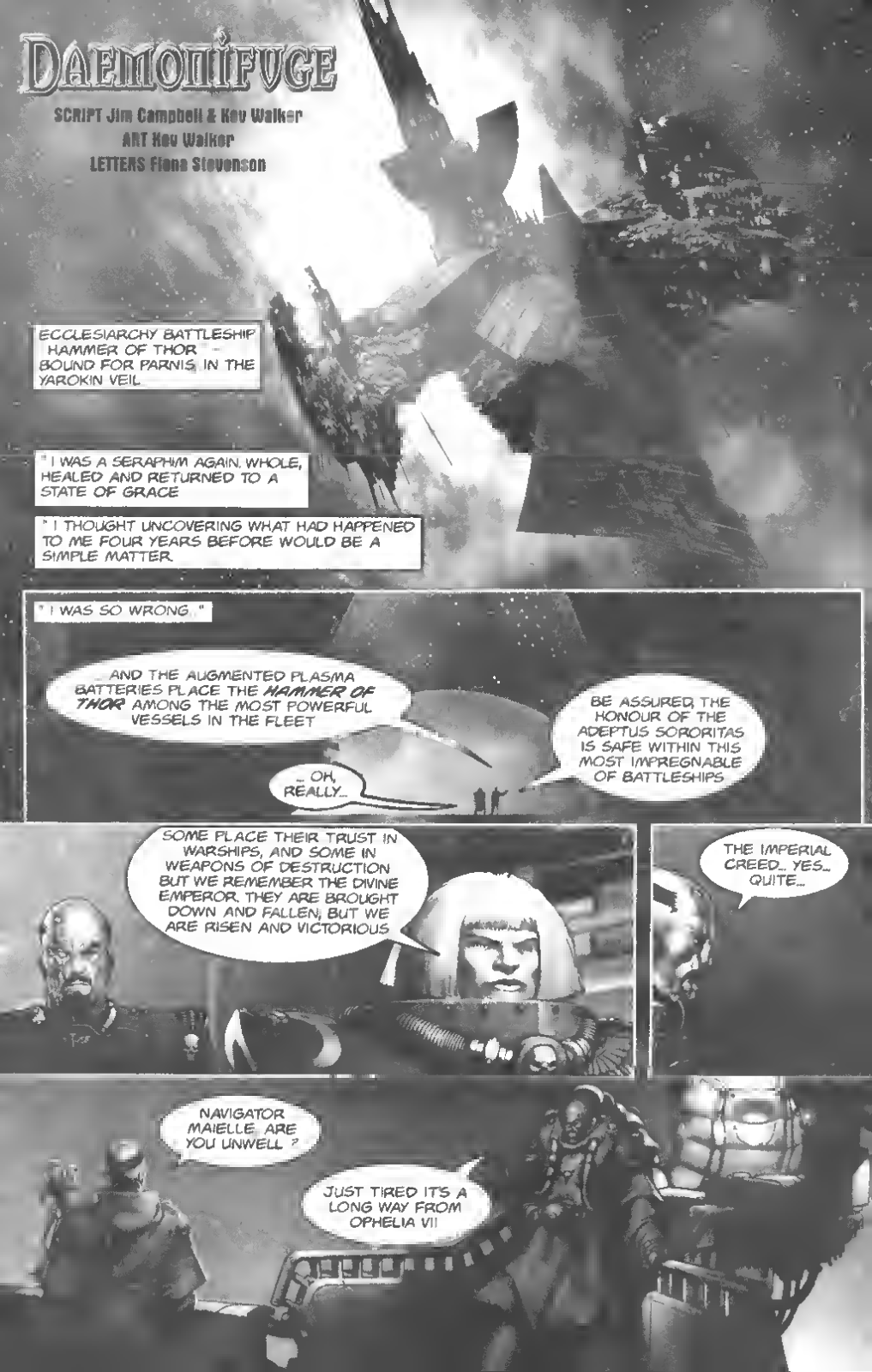
WOULD YOU CONDEMN A GOD MACHINE TO DEATH? ERVIN HEKATE IS IMPERIUS DICTATIO
YOU ARE ALL IGNORING THE OBVIOUS. HEKATE IS BONDED TO DICTATIO. THEY ARE LINKED. THERE IS NO CHOICE OR DEBATE.
KILL HIM AND YOU AS GOOD AS KILL THE TITAN.
NONE OF YOU HAVE THE STRENGTH OR THE RIGHT TO SUNDER THAT BOND!
MAN AND MACHINE! SO IT IS WRITTEN. THE UNION UPON WHICH OUR ADEPTUS IS FOUNDED! DO NOT WASTE ANY MORE TIME WITH THIS CHARADE.

THE TITAN ITSELF HAS SPOKEN OUT FOR HEKATE
THE COURT DECLARES IT UNWISE TO PURSUE THIS MATTER FURTHER. HOWEVER PRINCEPS HEKATE MUST CONSIDER HIMSELF FORMALLY REPREMANDED
ERVIN HEKATE DO YOU HAVE ANYTHING TO SAY?
I THANK YOU... YOUR JUDGEMENT WILL BE PROVEN WISE...
FOR WE ARE TITANS, SHAKERS OF WORLDS
AND WHERE WE STEP, THE EARTH SHUDDERS; WHERE WE RAGE CITIES DIE...
...I AM IMPERIUS DICTATIO. LET MY ENEMIES FEAR ME. LET THEIR DEATHS BE DEATHS OF FIRE AT MY STEEL HANDS...

AND BY THE GODS OF MARS, LET ME SERVE THE EMPEROR AS A TITAN UNTIL THE END OF MY DAYS!
END OF BOOK ONE.

DAEMONIFUGE

SCRIPT Jim Campbell & Kev Walker
ART Kev Walker
LETTERS Fiona Stevenson


ECCLESIARCHY BATTLESHIP "HAMMER OF THOR" – BOUND FOR PARNIS IN THE YAROKIN VEIL
"I WAS A SERAPHIM AGAIN. WHOLE, HEALED AND RETURNED TO A STATE OF GRACE
"I THOUGHT UNCOVERING WHAT HAD HAPPENED TO ME FOUR YEARS BEFORE WOULD BE A SIMPLE MATTER.
"I WAS SO WRONG."
... AND THE AUGMENTED PLASMA BATTERIES PLACE THE HAMMER OF THOR AMONG THE MOST POWERFUL VESSELS IN THE FLEET
BE ASSURED, THE HONOUR OF THE ADEPTUS SORORITAS IS SAFE WITHIN THIS MOST IMPREGNABLE OF BATTLESHIPS
... OH, REALLY...
SOME PLACE THEIR TRUST IN WARSHIPS, AND SOME IN WEAPONS OF DESTRUCTION BUT WE REMEMBER THE DIVINE EMPEROR. THEY ARE BROUGHT DOWN AND FALLEN, BUT WE ARE RISEN AND VICTORIOUS
THE IMPERIAL CREED... YES... QUITE...
NAVIGATOR MAIELLE. ARE YOU UNWELL ?
JUST TIRED. IT'S A LONG WAY FROM OPHELIA VII

SLEEP THAT'S WHAT YOU NEED, NAVIGATOR.
I NEED A DAMNED SIGHT MORE THAN THAT..
UHH... ILESTOR... I'M WEAK...
hurry be swift you have need of me
...thou hast done all that I asked?
PLEASE... I CAN'T BEAR IT ANY LONGER.
...thy appointed task – is it complete?
YES, YES - YOU KNOW I CAN'T REFUSE YOU
...then all is well...
...feel the embrace of Slaanesh...

FOUR YEARS ANY TRACE OF WHAT HAPPENED DOWN THERE WILL BE LONG GONE
A RETURN TO PARNIS WAS IMPLICIT IN SISTER STERN'S REINSTATEMENT CANNONESS - WE ALL REQUIRE ANSWERS
THE TEXTS THAT STARTED ALL THIS, THEY WERE OLD ?
FROM THE BUCHARIS APOSTASY, MOLECULAR ENCRYPTIONS
A LOST ORDER OF SORORITAS, NO NUMBERS, NO NAME OR NATURE, HARDLY THE CLARITY OF INFORMATION REQUIRED FOR A QUEST.
TWELVE HUNDRED SISTERS OF YOUR ORDER LOST.
A RASH DECISION...
AHHH!
CHAOS - IT CLAWS AT ME !
FROM THE PLANET ?!
beeeep
COME.
A SENDING, INQUISITOR. FROM OPHELIA VII.
Inquisitor Hand - Urgent
(W/ref - Sterns would be assassin/Navi Nobilite)
Secrecy pointless. Interrogations reveal paramour travels WITH you - aboard Hammer of Thor. Suggest GREAT ENEMY well aware of current situation Navigator named Maille - imperial record en route via subspace. Should be considered THREAT OF HIGHEST ORDER.
Emperor go with you.
Fazael
THAT CAN'T BE - YOU SIFTED ALL MINDS ABOARD FOR SIGNS OF CHAOS, BEFORE WE DEPARTED.
DAMN ME FOR A FOOL !

TIME IS OF THE ESSENCE, SISTER STERN. CHAOS IS NOT ACTUALLY WITHIN HIM.
YOUR INTENDED ASSASSIN, WAS ENGAGED IN DEVIANT ASSOCIATIONS WITH THE NAVIGATOR OF THIS VERY VESSEL.
IMPOSSIBLE THERE ARE CHECKS AND MEASURES TO PREVENT SUCH.
CAPTAIN VOLOCH, THIS NAVIGATOR' S DAMNATION IS BEYOND QUESTION
BY WHAT DEGREE HE HAS TAINTED THE REST OF THE CREW WILL REMAIN TO BE SEEN
B OOOOOOO
.. BY THE BLOOD OF THE EMPEROR.
DON'T STOP. PLEASE.

DEVIANTS... BURN IN SHAME !!
.. fools .. oblivion awaits thee ..
your tiny lights are as nothing to the shadow
" MY HEART SANK AS THE DAEMON GLANCED AT EACH OF US IN TURN "
" I FELT ITS FEAR. "
... YOU! ... YOU LIVE YET ...
" ITS FEAR WAS NOTHING COMPARED TO MY OWN "
KNOW NOW THE RIGHTEOUS LIGHT OF THE DIVINE EMPEROR !
" A CREATURE THAT SEES NOT AS WE DO, BUT BY PERCEIVING THE BRIGHTNESS OF OUR SOULS.
" HAD LOOKED UPON ME AND SEEN... NOTHING. "
BURN THEM.
EEEE

WHY SUCH HASTE ?
CHAOS SNAPS AT OUR HEELS, SISTER, AND WE ORBIT ITS HELLBORN SPAWNING PLACE. OUR DUTY LIES BELOW.
I WOULD NOT SUFFER BLASPHEMY TO PERSIST A MOMENT LONGER WERE IT WITHIN MY POWER !
JUST AS THE EMPEROR EXPECTS NO LESS OF YOU !
ALL IS READY
LET US PRAY.
" THE RIGHTEOUS SHALL FEAR NO EVIL FOR WE ACT IN THE DIVINE LIGHT OF THE EMPEROR "
" MAY OUR DEEDS BE NOBLE IN HIS SIGHT AND PLEASING TO HIS HEART "

" WE PRAY THAT, IN PLEASING HIM, HIS DIVINE WILL BRINGS US COURAGE IN LIFE AND HONOUR IN DEATH
" ALL PRAISE THE EMPEROR
" SILAS HAND *LECTURED* ME ONCE ON THE SIN OF *ARROGANCE*
" HOW *IRONIC*
" WE *IMAGINED* THAT WE HAD ROOTED OUT THE EVIL, THAT VOLOCH'S MIGHTY BATTLESHIP WAS INDEED SAFE
" AND YET, WE LIVED FOR ANOTHER DAY ONLY AT THE *WHIM* OF *FATE*...
" AND THE *EAGERNESS* OF SILAS HAND TO *PURGE* THE PLANET BELOW
" ONLY *FATE* AND THE WILL OF A *MADMAN* SPARED US
" HOW *IRONIC*... "
continued...

BLOODQUEST

ONSLAUGHT

SCRIPT. GORDON RENNIE
ART. COLIN MACNEIL
LETTERS. TONY LUKE

CLEAR THE FREQUENCY! THIS IS A RESTRICTED MILITARY CHANNEL IDENTIFY YOURSELVES NOW! IDENTIFY YOURS *AAAAGH!*

COMMISSAR ULAN TO ALL UNITS - RETREAT IS COWARDICE! FAILURE IS THE WORST KIND OF HERESY! FIGHT ON AND TURN BACK THE GREENSKIN RABBLE!

--BREAKING THROUGH AT EVERY POINT IN THE LINE URGENTLY REQUEST PERMISSION TO FALL BACK AND REGROUP URGENTLY REQUEST-

--CUT OFF, CASUALTIES MOUNTING WE COMMEND OUR SOULS TO THE EMPEROR

ALL HEAVY ARTILLERY UNITS! CONCENTRATE YOUR FIRE ON THE LEAD GARGANT!

WAAAGH ORK! WAAAGH GARSHÛL! WAAAGH BAD MOONZ!

SEEKING THE ***LOST SWORD OF BELARIUS,*** THE BLOOD ANGELS QUEST BRINGS THEM TO ***THE IMPERIUM WORLD OF LEPTIS,*** THE LATEST PLANET TO FALL VICTIM TO THE DEVASTATING POWER OF ORK WARLORD ***GARSHÛL THE DESTROYER --***

"IT'S THE SAME STORY ALL OVER THE PLANET, MY LORD..

"WE'VE BEEN ATTACKED BY ORK RAIDERS BEFORE BUT THIS IS ***DIFFERENT.*** FIRST THEY CRIPPLED OUR ORBITAL DEFENCES NOW THEY'RE ANNIHILATING US ON THE GROUND

"THIS ISN'T ANY MERE PLUNDER RAID THIS IS SYSTEMATIC PLANETARY ASSAULT - TOTAL ***WAR*** ON EVERY FRONT!"

HOW LONG CAN WE CONTINUE TO HOLD OUT?
WITH THE EMPEROR TO GUIDE US, WE SHALL SOON TURN BACK THE TIDE OF ORKISH FILTH!
YOUR PIETY DOES YOU CREDIT MY FRIEND, BUT COMMISSAR ULAN IS NOT HERE NOW AND I NEED FACTS, NOT LITANIES OF FAITH.
AT THE PRESENT RATE OF ATTRITION I ESTIMATE OUR FORCES WILL BE COMPLETELY DESTROYED WITHIN FOUR DAYS
EMPEROR'S BONES! ONE IMPERIAL GUARD REGIMENT - EVEN JUST ONE COMPANY OF SPACE MARINES AND WE COULD STILL TURN THE BATTLE AGAINST THEM!
AND THE NEAREST REINFORCEMENTS ARE STILL WEEKS AWAY IN THE WARP EVEN ASSUMING OUR ASTROPATH COMMUNICATIONS HAVE BEEN RECEIVED
MY LORD, A CRAFT HAS JUST EXITED THE WARP AND IS HAILING US ITS TRANSMISSION CODES IDENTIFY IT AS A VESSEL OF THE IMPERIUM
OPEN A CHANNEL IMMEDIATELY!
I AM SEMPER GOVERNOR OF WHAT REMAINS OF THIS WORLD, AND YOUR ARRIVAL COMES JUST IN TIME SPACE MARINE
OUR SENSORS SHOW YOUR VESSEL TO BE A SCOUT SHIP HOW SOON WILL THE REST OF YOUR CHAPTER BE HERE?
REPEAT THIS IS CAPTAIN LEONATOS OF THE BLOOD ANGELS LEGION ASTARTES WE ARE APPROACHING LEPTIS AND REQUIRE URGENT CONTACT WITH ANY IMPERIUM AUTHORITY!
THE REST OF OUR CHAPTER? YOU MISUNDERSTAND THE PURPOSE OF OUR MISSION GOVERNOR

WE ARE HERE ON A MATTER OF PERSONAL HONOUR WE HAVE BEEN MONTHS IN THE WARP, FOLLOWING THE TRAIL OF THE DESTROYER, AND THERE IS NO THOUSAND-STRONG CHAPTER FOLLOWING IN OUR WAKE
THERE IS ONLY MY BATTLE BROTHERS AND ME WE ARE THE ONLY ALLIES YOU HAVE
SIX SPACE MARINES AGAINST AN ARMY OF ORKS? I HAVE HEARD THE TALES OF YOUR CHAPTER BLOOD ANGEL IF IT IS A GLORIOUS DEATH IN BATTLE YOU SEEK, THEN THE FORTUNES OF THE WARP HAVE INDEED CARRIED YOU TO THE RIGHT PLACE
I ASSURE YOU GOVERNOR I HAVE NO WISH TO DIE THIS DAY OR ANY OTHER
WHAT ORBITAL DEFENCES DO YOU HAVE LEFT?
A FEW LASER DEFENCE BATTERIES WE HAVE BEEN HOLDING THEM IN RESERVE TO DEFEND OUR CAPITAL CITY FROM ORBITAL ATTACK
YOU WISH US TO USE THEM TO PROVIDE YOU WITH COVERING FIRE AS YOU ATTEMPT TO EVADE HE ORK BLOCKADE?
AGAIN GOVERNOR YOU MISUNDERSTAND WE HAVE NO INTENTION OF EVADING THE ORK WARFLEET ORBITING YOUR PLANET.
WE HAVE IDENTIFIED THE DESTROYERS COMMAND VESSEL OUR INTENTION IS TO MOUNT A DIRECT TELEPORT ASSAULT UPON IT
ORKS ARE MINDLESS SAVAGES KILL THEIR WARLORD AND THEY WILL SOON RETREAT IN DISARRAY!

EVASIVE ACTION! VOID SHIELDS TO MAX POWER! FOLLOW THE COVERING FIRE FROM THE PLANET'S SURFACE!
ALL MARINES TO TELEPORTARIUM! CHECK WEAPONS AND PREPARE FOR CLOSE COMBAT!
THIS GAME GOES TOO FAR THEY ARE ALMOST WITHIN TELEPORT RANGE WE SHOULD DESTROY THEM NOW, WHILE THERE IS STILL TIME
THEY ARE SPACE MARINES, THAT IS WHY YOU ARE AFRAID.
HOW LONG HAS IT BEEN? TEN THOUSAND YEARS? AND *STILL* YOU FEAR THOSE WHO WERE ONCE YOUR BROTHERS?

"LET THEM COME LOWER THE VOID SHIELDS AND LET THEM TELEPORT ABOARD OUR VESSEL
"THIS BODY I INHABIT GROWS WEAK AND DECAYED. I NEED A STRONGER PHYSICAL FORM TO CONTAIN MY POWER UPON THIS PLANE
'DO WHAT YOU WANT WITH THE OTHERS, BUT THE LEADER - THE ONE THEY CALL LEONATOS - MUST NOT BE KILLED.'
LET HIM BE BROUGHT BEFORE US, SO THAT HE MAY GAZE UPON THE TRUE FACE OF THE DESTROYER
TO BE CONTINUED..

DarkBlade
PART FIVE
LISTEN AS THE DREAD STORY OF MALUS DARKBLADE NOW UNFOLDS
WHOEVER LIVES HERE DAEMON .. HAS QUITE AN APPETITE
KNOW FIRST THAT HE WAS CURSED TO SEEK OUT FIVE RELICS OF UNHOLY POWER FOR THE FILTHY DAEMON TZARKAN WHO LIVES INSIDE HIS SOUL
THEN HEAR THE TALE OF THE FOURTH RELIC
THEN LET'S HOPE HE'S SLEEPING, MALUS.
SOMEWHERE IN THESE DARK GULLIES LIES THE LOST WARPSWORD OF KHAINE WE'RE NOT LEAVING UNTIL YOU'VE FOUND IT
SCRIPT: DAN ABNETT
ART: KEV HOPGOOD

QUIETLY NOW, DARK ELF ! LET'S NOT WAKE ANYONE.
YOUR CONCERN IS TOUCHING
HAAAAAA!
OH B...
MALUS?
UNDER THE CIRCUMSTANCES, I THINK I'LL LET YOU RUN, NOW !

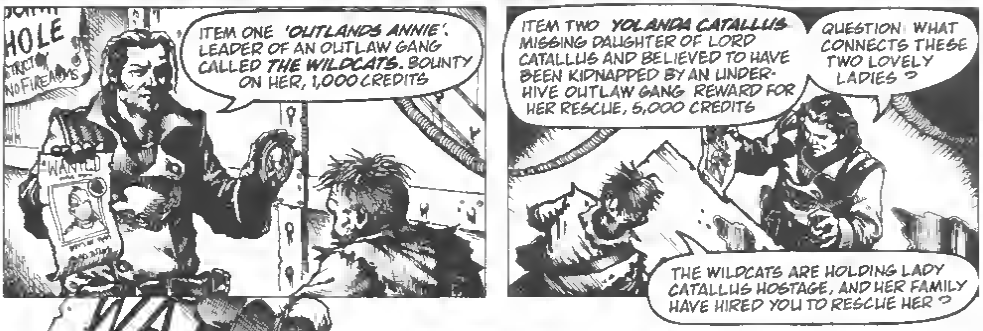
GRROOOAARGGH!
THERE'S NOWHERE TO RUN!
GNNFF!
KT
AGHHH!
CURSE YOU, CREATURE!

CURSE YOU BACK TO HELL !
WHHH
KKTCH!
MALUS... WHERE ARE YOU GOING? YOU'RE RUNNING TOWARDS THE CAVE!
WE HAVE A JOB TO DO REMEMBER ?
BUT YOU FOOL, IT'S RIGHT BEHIND US ! YOU'LL TRAP US IN HERE !
I NEED A WEAPON. YOU SAID WE WERE LOOKING FOR A SWORD THAT WILL DO
THE WARPSWORD OF KHAINE IS NO PIGSTICK TO BE USED IN BRAWLING ! IT IS A TALISMAN OF GLORIOUS POWER.
IT'S STILL A SWORD
SHUT UP, DAEMON

MALUS, I FORBID THIS--!
THEN WE DIE HERE
CHOICE IS YOURS
SHHKWOOOKK!
GOOD SWORD
NO WONDER YOU WANTED IT FOR YOUR COLLECTION
I DESPAIR OF YOU, MALUS. WHEN THE FINAL TASK IS DONE, THERE WILL BE SUCH A RECKONING.
I'M COUNTING ON IT
NEXT - TZ'ARKAN TRIUMPHANT !

KAL JERICO IN "YOLANDA"

SCABBS, IS IT MY IMAGINATION, OR HAVE YOU REALLY BEEN LYING HERE UNCONSCIOUS FOR THE LAST THREE DAYS ?
WH-WHAT ?
KAL ! I WAS-- I WAS JUST--
HOLDING PSYCHIC COMMUNION WITH THE EMPEROR ? CONTEMPLATING THE TEN THOUSAND LITURGIES OF FAITH ? SLEEPING OFF AN UGLY WILDSNAKE BREW HANGOVER ?
GET UP, SCABBS, I'VE GOT WORK FOR YOU.


ITEM ONE 'OUTLANDS ANNIE'. LEADER OF AN OUTLAW GANG CALLED THE WILDCATS. BOUNTY ON HER, 1,000 CREDITS
ITEM TWO YOLANDA CATALLUS MISSING DAUGHTER OF LORD CATALLUS AND BELIEVED TO HAVE BEEN KIDNAPPED BY AN UNDER-HIVE OUTLAW GANG. REWARD FOR HER RESCUE, 5,000 CREDITS
QUESTION: WHAT CONNECTS THESE TWO LOVELY LADIES ?
THE WILDCATS ARE HOLDING LADY CATALLUS HOSTAGE, AND HER FAMILY HAVE HIRED YOU TO RESCUE HER ?

WANTED
OUTLAW GANGER
GUILD OF MERCHANTS
"OUTLANDS ANNIE"
CREDITS REWARD
NOT BAD, MY MALODOROUS FRIEND. BUT TAKE A CLOSER LOOK
ANSWER: THEY'RE BOTH THE SAME WOMAN. A LITTLE KNOWN FACT WHICH YOU AND I ARE ABOUT TO EXPLOIT TO ITS FULL FINANCIAL ADVANTAGE

I STILL DON'T GET IT WHY WOULD ANYONE CHOOSE THIS OVER LIVING UP IN THE SPIRE ?
HAVE YOU EVER BEEN THERE, SCABBS ? ALL THAT POMP AND CEREMONY, WITH ONLY THE OCCASIONAL VENDETTA OR POLITICAL ASSASSINATION TO BREAK THE TEDIUM ?
BELIEVE ME, THE UNDERHIVE CAN SEEM MUCH MORE INTERESTING IN COMPARISON
WATCH MY BACK AND WAIT FOR MY SIGNAL YOU'LL KNOW WHAT IT IS WHEN IT COMES
DON'T BE ALARMED LADIES, MY INTENTIONS ARE STRICTLY HONOURABLE, I ASSURE YOU
I'M HOPING WE CAN COME TO SOME KIND OF AMICABLE UNDERSTANDING WITHOUT RECOURSE TO ANY UNNECESSARY UNPLEASANTNESS
LADY YOLANDA ? KAL JERICO, AT YOUR SERVICE
I OFFER YOU A CHOICE, MILADY EITHER I TAKE YOU IN AS A WANTED OUTLAW AND HAND YOU OVER TO THE GUILD OR YOU GIVE UP THIS RIDICULOUS CHARADE AND RETURN WITH ME BACK TO YOUR FAMILY
MAN-SCUM ! I'VE RENOUNCED MY BIRTHRIGHT ! THE WILDCATS ARE THE ONLY FAMILY I KNOW NOW, AND YOU'RE A FOOL IF YOU THINK YOU COULD TAKE ME BACK !

WHAT WILL WE DO WITH THIS PIECE OF HIVE-TRASH, SISTERS? HE'S TOO MUCH OF A RUNT TO SELL TO THE PIT SLAVERS AND THERE'S NOT EVEN ENOUGH MEAT ON HIM TO LEAVE AS SCAVVIE FODDER!
AH WELL, SO MUCH FOR THE AMICABLE APPROACH...
JUST AS WELL I DROPPED THAT FRAG GRENADE IN YOUR CAMP FIRE A MOMENT AGO THE HEAT SHOULD DETONATE IT ANY SECOND NOW
KA-BOOOM!
I'M SORRY, MILADY, BUT NOW I REALLY MUST INSIST YOU COME WITH ME!
THOKK!
SCABBS! SOME COVERING FIRE WOULD BE MUCH APPRECIATED!
KCHOW!
KCHOW!
KCHOW!
BRAKKA
BRAKKA
HELMAWR'S RUMP! WHO'S THAT DRUNKEN RATSKIN HALF-BREED TRYING TO HIT, THEM OR ME?
SCRAPE!
CHING!

BRAKKA
BRAKKA
FAREWELL, LADIES! IT'S BEEN FUN, BUT YOUR FORMER LEADER AND I REALLY DO HAVE URGENT BUSINESS ELSEWHERE!
SPANG!
CHING!
CHARMING ESCAPE ROUTE YOU PICKED! I ASSUME YOU KNOW THE WAY HOME FROM HERE?
YOU KIDDING? I WAS BORN IN THESE TUNNELS! SPENT THE BEST PART OF MY CHILDHOOD DOWN HERE!
YES, I ALWAYS WONDERED WHERE YOU ACQUIRED THAT UNIQUE AROMA OF YOURS
YOU THINK THAT'S ANY WAY TO TREAT A HIGHBORN NOBLEWOMAN?
YOU WANT TO UNGAG HER, GO AHEAD AND BE MY GUEST
mmmff
gg'mmmhmm-fggg'm
JERICO, YOU SLUMP-DIVING LOWLIFE! YOU POX-RIDDEN SCAVVER!
I'M GOING TO HAVE YOU KILLED FOR THIS! I'M GOING TO HAVE THINGS DONE TO YOU THAT EVEN THE REDEMPTION'S BEST TORTURERS HAVEN'T THOUGHT OF YET!
mmmggmmffggmmhmmf
SPIRITED TYPE, AIN'T SHE? YOU REALLY THINK IT'S SAFE TO LET HER LOOSE IN THE UPPER HIVE?
ONE MORE BLOODCRAZED MANIAC SHOULDN'T MAKE MUCH DIFFERENCE TO THE HOUSE OF CATALLUS GENE-POOL, BUT YOU HAVE A POINT
IN FACT

YOU'RE KIDDING, RIGHT? YOU DON'T REALLY MEAN--
JOB'S A WIPE OUT, SCABBS SHE'S BEEN DOWN HERE TOO LONG, AND NOW SHE'S DAMAGED GOODS - MORE UNDERHIVE OUTLAW THAN UPHIVE ARISTOCRAT.
YOU THINK HER FAMILY WILL WANT HER BACK WHEN THEY SEE WHAT THE UNDERHIVE HAS TURNED HER INTO?
AT LEAST THERE'S STILL THE 1,000 CRED OUTLAW BOUNTY ON HER, AND IT DON'T SAY ANYTHING ABOUT HAVING TO BRING HER IN ALIVE.
CHKRK
HARDLY VERY GENTLEMANLY, SCABBS. BESIDES, SHE MAY BE A PSYCHOTIC MISFIT, BUT I RATHER LIKE THAT IN A WOMAN
CALL ME A GULLIBLE ROMANTIC, BUT I HAVEN'T QUITE GOT THE HEART TO HAND HER OVER TO THE TENDER MERCIES OF THE GUILD
WELL, NOT FOR A MERE 1,000 CREDS, ANYWAY
SHE SEEMS LIKE A RESOURCEFUL TYPE. I DARE SAY, GIVEN AN HOUR OR TWO, SHE'LL BE ABLE TO UNTIE HERSELF. AND DIDN'T YOU ONCE SAY THERE WERE HIVE SPIDERS LIVING IN THESE TUNNELS?
GREAT BIG 'UNS SEEN 'EM SUCK A BODY DRY IN MINUTES!
FASCINATING. WHAT A TRULY INTERESTING CHILDHOOD YOU MUST HAVE HAD, SCABBS.
STILL, YOU CAN'T SAY WE HAVEN'T GIVEN HER A SPORTING CHANCE
THE END

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